

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ A diagnostic monoclonal antibody which is comprised of the amino acid sequence of each CDR shown below such that the antibody binds specifically to the CD23 (FCR ϵ II) type II molecule expressed on haematopoietic cells, said monoclonal antibody comprising light chain variable domains CDRL1, CDRL2, and CDRL3, further comprising heavy chain domains CDRH1, CDRH2, and CDRH3, wherein CDRL1 consists of the amino acid sequence RSSKSLLY KDGKTYLN of SEQ ID NO:1, CDRL2 consists of the amino acid sequence LMSTRAS of SEQ ID NO:5, CDRL3 consists of the amino acid sequence QQLVEYPFT of SEQ ID NO:7, CDRH1 consists of the amino acid sequence GYWMS of SEQ ID NO:9, CDRH2 consists of amino acid sequence EIRLKSDNYATHYAESVKG of SEQ ID NO:11, and CDHR3 consists of amino acid sequence FID of SEQ ID NO:13.

_____	RSSKSLLY KDGKTYLN	_____	CDRL1 (SEQ ID NO:3),
_____	LMSTRAS	_____	CDRL2 (SEQ ID NO:5),
_____	QQLVEYPFT	_____	CDRL3 (SEQ ID NO:7),
_____	GYWMS	_____	CDRH1 (SEQ ID NO:9),
_____	EIRLKSDNYATHYAESVKG	_____	CDRH2 (SEQ ID NO:11), and
_____	FID	_____	CDRH3 (SEQ ID NO:13).

2. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The diagnostic monoclonal antibody according to claim 1 which binds to CD23 with an affinity constant equal to or greater than 1×10^9 Ka Mol⁻¹.

3. (Cancelled.)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The diagnostic monoclonal antibody according to claim 1, wherein said antibody ~~which~~ is a chimeric antibody.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The diagnostic monoclonal antibody according to claim 1, wherein said antibody ~~which~~ is a humanised antibody.

6. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The diagnostic monoclonal antibody according to claim 1, wherein in which the framework of the heavy chain ~~includes~~ retains the mouse heavy chain amino acid residues ~~from the murine antibody~~ at any of positions 49, 66, 76, 77 and 94 according to Figure 1 by the Kabat numbering system, and the framework of the light chain retains the mouse light chain amino acid residue at position 64 according to Figure 2.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ A diagnostic antibody ~~which~~ that binds to the CD23 (FCR ϵ II) type II molecule expressed on haematopoietic cells comprising ~~one or~~ both of the amino acid sequences encoded by the nucleotide sequences according to SEQ ID NOS:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

9. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ A diagnostic antibody ~~which~~ that binds to the CD23 (FCR ϵ II) type II molecule expressed on haematopoietic cells comprising ~~one or~~ both of the amino acid sequences encoded by the nucleotide sequences according to SEQ ID NOS:17 and SEQ ID NO:18.

Claims 10-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical formulation comprising ~~an~~ the diagnostic monoclonal antibody as defined in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

19. (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical formulation comprising ~~an~~ the
diagnostic monoclonal antibody as defined in claim 1 in combination with an
~~immunomodulatory or~~ anti-inflammatory agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claims 20-22 (Cancelled.)

23. (New): A method of treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in a patient in need thereof,
said method comprising the step of administering to the patient a pharmaceutically effective
amount of the monoclonal antibody according to claim 1.